

Message Text

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11-R
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W
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R 281320Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6834
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12698

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ATRAN AFSP
SUBJECT: VISITATION TRAVEL, DEPENDENTS IN ASMARA

REF: STATE 252740; ASMARA 902

1. WHILE EMBASSY IS AND HAS BEEN UNEASY ABOUT PRESENCE
DEPENDENTS IN ASMARA, WE AGREE WITH CONGEN THAT ABDUCTION
BRITISH HONORARY CONSUL AND ITALIAN SCHOOL TEACHER HAS NOT
MATERIALLY CHANGED SECURITY SITUATION OUR PERSONNEL THERE.
ABDUCTIONS PROVED THAT INSURGENTS BENT ON KIDNAPPING
CAN PRETTY MUCH MOVE WITH IMPUNITY EVEN WITHIN CITY, BUT THIS
IS NOT EXACTLY NEWS. EMBASSY HAS HAD OCCASION BEFORE TO
NOTE THAT WE SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT SECURITY OF
ALL AMERICANS IN ASMARA, OFFICIALS AND DEPENDENTS ALIKE.

2. CONGEN COMPOUND WOULD BE RELATIVELY DIFFICULT TO CRACK
FOR KIDNAPPING PURPOSES. POSSIBILITY ALWAYS EXISTS THAT
IT COULD HAPPEN OUTSIDE COMPOUND, BUT SO LONG AS CONGEN
BELIEVES THIS IS NECESSARY RISK IN LOCAL SECURITY CONTEXT
AS PRESENCE OF DEPENDENTS IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE TO MAINTENANCE
OF MORALE, WE RECOMMEND NO CHANGE IN PRESENT POLICY. IT
IS SUBJECT THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE WATCH CAREFULLY, HOWEVER.
HUMMEL

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